

IOWA GRAPE AND WINE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Program Purpose

The Iowa Grape and Wine Development Commission Scholarship is a state-funded grant that provides scholarships to recipients to enhance the grape and wine industry in Iowa by increasing accessibility to education.

Eligible Program Expenses

The scholarship program will fund viticulture or enology undergraduate or graduate college credit courses from an accredited Iowa community college or university or from a post-secondary educational institution that is in consortium with an Iowa college. If an accredited post-secondary viticulture or enology course is not available from an Iowa college or from an institution in consortium with an Iowa college, applications for out of state coursework will be considered. Applicants are required to list the course or courses for which they seek reimbursement on the application form. The scholarship will reimburse tuition expenses upon course completion with a grade of 70% ("C") or higher. Reimbursement may be up to \$400, unless determined otherwise by the application review committee.

Application Year

An individual may receive one scholarship in an academic year. An academic year is composed of the fall semester of a given year, and the spring and summer semesters of the succeeding year. An application received by May 1st or November 1st is eligible for reimbursement of coursework taken in the fall, spring, and/or summer semester of that academic year. Upon request, one extension is permitted per recipient.

Eligibility

To be eligible for a scholarship, the applicant must be an Iowa resident and complete accredited coursework with a grade of 70% ("C") or higher. The application review committee gives primary consideration to applicants based on industry association and secondary consideration to those applicants who show substantial commitment to an enology or viticulture program at an Iowa university or college. "Industry association" with a vineyard or winery must be at the time of application and includes, but is not limited to, volunteer work, seasonal labor, part-time employment, full time employment, or ownership. A change in association after the submission deadline will not affect consideration.

Criteria

The application review committee will select recipients based upon the following criteria:



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP

Bill Northey, Secretary of Agriculture

- 1. The significance of the applicant's association with an Iowa vineyard or winery, or the degree of commitment to a post-secondary viticulture/enology program
- 2. The size of the vineyard or production of the winery in cases
- 3. A half-page written statement describing the applicant's qualifications, industry involvement, experience and goals

If the number of applicants requesting scholarships is fewer than would expend the funds available, all applicants will receive a scholarship, provided they meet the criteria to the satisfaction of the application review committee and complete accredited coursework with a grade of 70% ("C") or higher.

If the number of applicants exceeds the funds available, the number of scholarships per operation may be limited. An operation is defined as a vineyard, winery, or a combination of the two. Applications from an operation will be ranked by the application review committee.

Application Process

- 1. Candidates must complete a two-page application form due to the Iowa Grape and Wine Development Commission, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. Please note application deadlines are May 1st and November 1st.
- 2. Applications will be evaluated by the application review committee.
- 3. The first page of the application lists the candidate's contact information and the name of the associated vineyard or winery, if any. The second page of the application requests the size of the vineyard and/or production of the winery and has two essay questions to which the applicant must respond. The application review committee will see only the second page of the application, which does not reveal personal information of the applicant.
- 4. Following the decision by the application review committee on prospective recipients of the scholarship, an award will be made to each recipient after receipt of proof of successful completion of accredited coursework with a grade of 70% ("C") or higher.

Contact Information

If you have questions regarding the Iowa Grape and Wine Development Commission Scholarship Program, contact Paul Ovrom by e-mail at paul.ovrom@iowaagriculture.gov, by telephone at 515-242-5028, or by fax at 515-242-5015.